

**BABUSHKA ADOPTION FOUNDATION YEARLY REPORT FOR
2011**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

BABUSHKA ADOPTION FOUNDATION YEARLY REPORT FOR 2011.....	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR	3
01.01.2011-31.12.2011	4
ADOPT A BABUSHKA PROGRAM	4
SOCIAL AID.....	7
HUMANITARIAN AID	8
SELF HELP GROUPS ACTIVITIES.....	9
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.....	12
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	13
MEDIA	13
FUNDRAISING	14
THE SUPERVISORY BOARD.....	14
FINANCIAL ACTIVITY.....	14

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

During the reporting year BA worked on strengthening of its organisational capacity. A number of activities were held to enhance both the organisational capacity and strategic management of the organisation. Among the activities there were: strategic planning, development of the operational manual, development of the office policies and procedures, development of the plan of financial sustainability and promoting PR campaign of Babushka Adoption. The whole team of Babushka Adoption participated in development of the above mentioned strategically important documents. The team work contributed to development of the important strategy documents to guarantee further development of the organisation. Whilst simultaneously designing the documents the staff developed new skills and practical training in the above mentioned organisational capacity building subjects. New skills and knowledge have strengthened the Foundation's advocacy activities for the rights of older people and development of new useful services for beneficiaries of Babushka Adoption. Besides the organisational development, ICCO's financing favoured strengthening of the marketing capacity of the Self Help Groups of BA, which we believe contributed to achievement of self-sustainability by older people.

We are very thankful to the Foundation ICCO, whose involvement was so essential and important, which lead to positive strategic changes in the organisation, gave new breath to development of the Foundation, resulting in long lasting financial support to the older people and achieving self-sustainability by rural Self Help Groups of BA.

We are thankful to the US Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic who gave new fresh breath/second life to the senior citizens, members of Self Help Groups and other elderly to implement their advocacy and income generation activities, improving their living conditions and thus feeling not so isolated disempowered to change their lives for the better.

We greatly appreciate the friendship and involvement of all those people who think of the babushkas and try to make their lives a bit easier.

Aidai Kadyrova
Director

BABUSHKA ADOPTION Foundation ACTIVITY 01.01.2011-31.12.2011

Babushka Adoption continues changing and improving the lives of the elderly in our country and helping them live more dignified and happy lives.

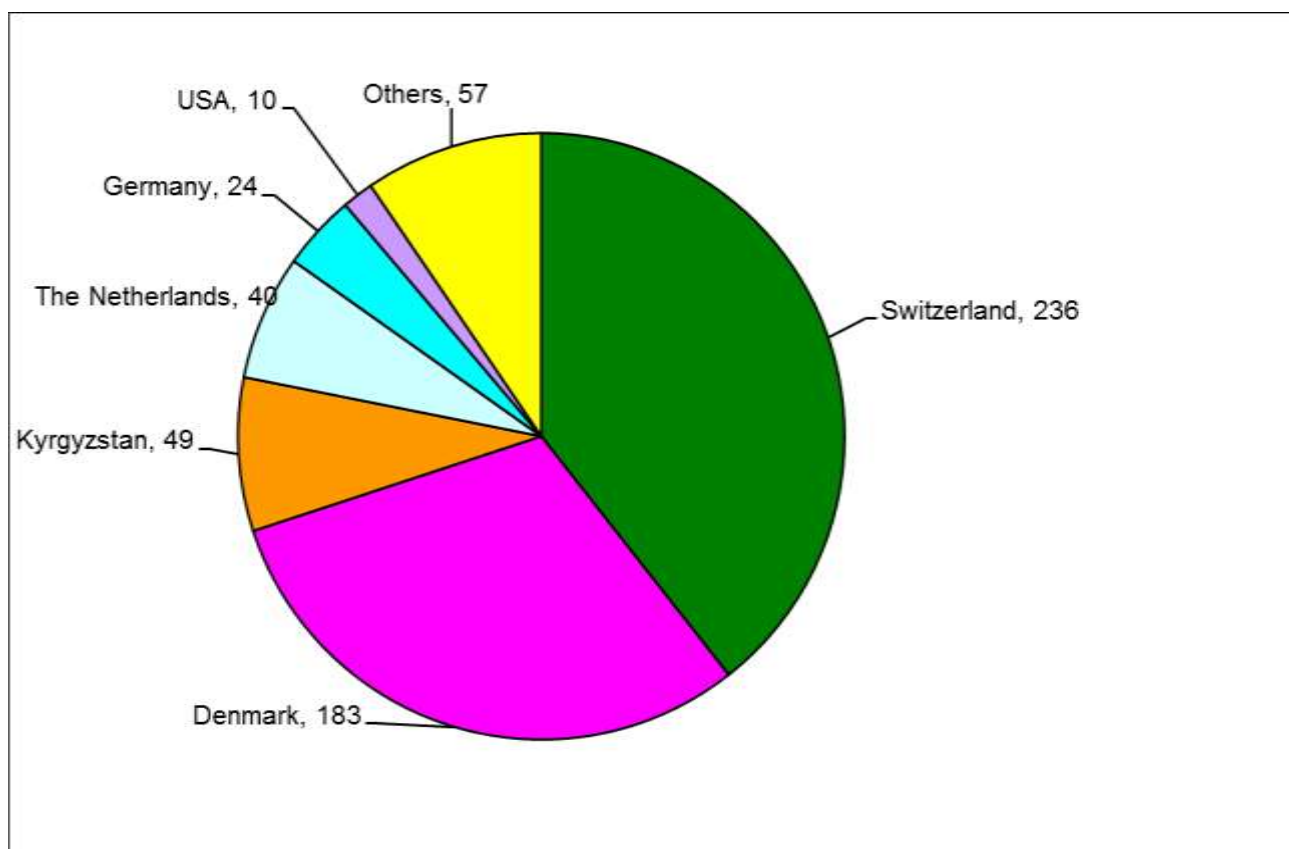
The Babushka Adoption Foundation's **mission** is to assist/help improve the lives of the elderly via provision of social-financial support and promotion of their interests. The following goals and activities were designed and implemented to achieve the ultimate objectives of the organisation.

<p><i>Goal 1: Social-financial support of the older people</i></p>

Adopt a Babushka Program

Babushka Adoption Foundation has operated a sponsor programme providing monthly welfare cash transfers from sponsors around the world (Switzerland, Denmark, The Netherlands, Germany, Malta, Kyrgyz Republic and others) to the most vulnerable older people in Bishkek and the rural areas of Batken Oblast. The financial support provided through Babushka Adoption Foundation makes a significant difference to the lives of older people. The majority of older people supported by Babushka Adoption Foundation have no family network to support them financially and socially. Our beneficiaries receive EURO 10 per month from their individual sponsors.

During the reporting period Babushka Adoption received 250 applications for financial support (incl. Batken and Bishkek head office) from needy older people and assessed the living conditions/needs of 186 (incl. Batken and Bishkek) "candidates for adoption". 115 elderly people became our beneficiaries, 131 beneficiaries left our sponsorship programme. 48 people became new sponsors, 85 sponsors left our sponsorship programme. At the end of 2010 BA supported 933 beneficiaries, by October 31, 2011 BA distributed financial support to 963 beneficiaries. It is noteworthy that this year we managed to increase the number of the Kyrgyz local sponsors from 24 to 49.



To maintain a strong relationship with our sponsors we keep them informed about their adopted babushka by providing the data such as reports about ‘sponsorship balance’, that is how much money is left on the account of a sponsored babushka, news from BA/the beneficiary(ies) or other matters throughout the year. In Summer of 2011 we sent an update, summer greetings for our sponsors by e-mail, at the end of 2011 we sent all our sponsors a New Year Postcard in English, German, French, Dutch and Russian, handwritten and subscribed by the supported elderly and a sponsor account statement by post.

As an important part of the sponsorship program, Babushka Adoption Foundation also works to establish close personal relationships between sponsors and their adopted babushkas to ease the feelings of loneliness and social isolation among the elderly. Babushka Adoption team is translating letters, helping beneficiaries send letters to their sponsors, delivering gifts and additional money from sponsors, and organizing meetings between sponsors and their adopted babushkas. Our elderly people very much like to meet their sponsors and speak with them on different topics and they love to tell their interesting life stories. During the year we organized 5 meetings of sponsors with babushkas.

From 01.01.2011 till 31.12.2011 BA informed 123 sponsors about change of their beneficiaries, sent 439 confirmations about money receiving, 569 requests for renewal of sponsorship, inserted 159 biographies to the Babushka Adoption’s Microsoft Access Database, translated 277 letters from

babushkas to sponsors and 245 from sponsors to babushkas. 2160 e-mails were sent to sponsors, exchanging information between the Foundation and babushkas' sponsors.



Sponsor Mrs. Karin Frauenlob from Schmid Unternehmerstiftung that supports 100 babushkas



Sponsor Mrs. Madeleine Reeves visiting one of her 7 "adopted" babushkas

This year we facilitated visits for a number of our sponsors, such as Mrs. Madeline Reeves from the UK, Mrs. Emily Sergienko from France and Mrs. Karin Frauenlob from Switzerland.

Mrs. Karin Frauenlob spoke of her time visiting Kyrgyzstan:

"In the name of the "Schmid Unternehmerstiftung" I started my journey to visit babushkas in Kyrgyzstan last July.

Aidai, the director of the foundation, had everything organized very carefully for my stay. I got to know the two teams of Babushka-Adoption, in the capital City Bishkek and in Batken in the South of Kyrgyzstan. They provided me with an insight into the everyday life in the office as well as into the social work they provide at the homes of the poor people. Their engagement and commitment impressed me very much.

I felt so welcomed by the babushkas and dedushkas. They were very grateful to me and showed me warm hospitality. They hardly have anything to live on, but they generously gave me tea and bread. To see how they live, in such difficult conditions without complaining, and to hear their stories, what had happened to them in their lives, really touched my heart.

Convinced, that the money that sponsors contribute is so well used and that it is for the direct benefit of the babushkas and dedushkas, I decided to adopt a babushka. Knowing that I can afford to help someone in a poor country have a better life, I returned home contemplative, but happy."

ACTIVITY	Applied for support from Babushka Adoption (Batken and Bishkek)	250	BABUSHKAS
	The social workers assessed living conditions of (Batken and Bishkek)	186	
	Inserted into database, translated profiles of	159	
	Got newly "adopted"	115	
	Quit the sponsorship programme/scheme	131	
	Translated for sponsors letters from	277	
	Got parcels from sponsors and passed over to	23	
	Got additional monetary gifts for Christmas, birthdays	116	
	Total number of supported babushkas by 31.10.2010	963	
	Attracted new	48	SPONSORS
	Quit the sponsorship programme/scheme	85	
	Informed about change of beneficiaries	123	
	Sent confirmation about receipt of money to	439	
	Sent request for renewal of sponsorship to	569	
	Translated letters from	245	
	Arranged meetings with babushkas for	6	
Exchanged e-mails with sponsors	2160		
Total number of sponsors, supporting the babushkas	599		

Social aid

In addition to financial support, Babushka Adoption Foundation provides the elderly with social support. The Home Care Help has been operating since September 2001. BA social workers assist the most vulnerable elderly people with services such as grocery shopping, paying bills, assisting with personal hygiene, cleaning house, etc.

We also involve some of our babushkas in our social care activities. We have 10 babushkas that assist in distributing money to beneficiaries living nearby who are unable to come to the money collection points. This activity also promotes social interaction among the elderly.

Our social worker from Batken branch office provides home care help to 10 beneficiaries of BA living in Sulukta town, Batken regions. The Social Worker from Sulukta administers a Resource Centre for Older People, located in Sulukta town of Leilek region. Beneficiaries of BA have an opportunity to socialise in the centre, in warm and comfortable conditions. BA can organize community development events in the centre.

Humanitarian aid

Babushka Adoption Foundation works with other charity organisations to distribute humanitarian aid to senior citizens in Kyrgyzstan.



Walking aids presented by “Tian Shan” Foundation

Babushka Adoption continued to receive donations of clothes, bedding, and food from the International Women’s Club in Bishkek, Manas Air Base Outreach Service, Tien Shan Foundation. BA distributed these donations to the elderly as well as to other vulnerable parts of our society.

In November 2010 - October 2011 Babushka Adoption Foundation received from the Tien Shan Foundation 50 big bags of clothes and bedding, 17 of walking aids, 7 wheel chairs, which were distributed to the beneficiaries of Babushka Adoption. Throughout the year we distributed humanitarian aid (such as walking aids, crutches, clothes and bedding) that we received from the “Tian Shan” Foundation, and the Kyrgyz Internet Forum Diesel. Through the Kyrgyz Internet Forum we managed to increase the number of the local sponsors by 49.

As a member of AgeNet Central Asia Without Borders, Babushka Adoption Foundation received a portion of the public donations that were collected in AgeNet charity boxes in public areas. With these funds, BA provided toiletries and cleaning items to seven of the neediest babushkas.

1st of October is “International Day of Elderly People”. Babushka Adoption team made product packets for active and also neediest elderly for the holiday. 15 elderly people received product packets which included the most essential products like sugar, rice, oil, tea and also emergencies (soup, powder). 40 beneficiaries of BA were invited for lunch on the holiday of the 1st of October.

An exciting new opportunity has arisen recently for our babushkas to be able to meet together and enjoy a hot meal on



Babushkas have lunch, prepared by Church of Jesus Christ, Bishkek

Sundays, provided by the Church of Jesus Christ in the capital city of Bishkek.

Goal 2: Mobilisation and strengthening of opportunities for older people

SELF HELP GROUPS ACTIVITIES

Babushka Adoption continues to support Self Help Groups in Bishkek and Batken district. These groups consist of 10-15 elderly people who meet regularly to discuss old people’s needs, address the problems of social reintegration and participate in community development activities at local level.



Babushkas are at a training “Making cloths out of felt”



Babushkas are at a training “Building of advocacy strategies”

Self Help Groups of Babushka Adoption:

One way that Babushka Adoption encourages the elderly to improve their living conditions via supporting Self Help Groups activities (SHGs). BA provides opportunities for women of pre-pension and pension age to generate income and promote advocacy campaign.

Babushka Adoption continuously provides institutional support to its SHGs, trying to strengthen their marketing capacity, so that they would produce competitively marketable products and goods, thus earning more income. BA, jointly with its Self Help Groups, promotes the idea of social responsibility, meaning that the active Self Help Group Members should in practical ways take care of immobile older people within their community or household.

GIZ programme (Germany) purchased equipment, such as electric ovens and irons, sewing and over stitching machines for (Batken and Belovoskoe) Self Help Groups to encourage successful income generation activities. The Self Help Groups were provided with furniture so that the members could have comfortable conditions to work or meet and socialise.

This year the Self Help Group members from Belovodskoe have had training sessions on: “Plant Pests”, “Diseases of Rabbits, their prophylaxis and treatment”, “Technologies of combining silk and felt”, “Diseases of bees, their prophylaxis and treatment” and “Marketing”.

Our Self Help Groups from Belovodskoe village went on an exchange experience trip to other Kyrgyzstan’s NGOs to learn from their experiences of income generation through the production of craft goods.

At the Centre of Elderly Initiatives Support in Belovodoskoe (opened with the support of ICCO, in 2010) our Self Help Group Members have organized an exercise group called “Health” and a choir “Kalina” where the older persons can enjoy social activities, escaping from isolation.

In the Centre, along with the UNDP project “Alga-Forward”, there was held an education session on “What’s new in the electoral system”. Members of our Self Help Groups participated in it and were taking an active part in preparation for the past presidential elections, working as canvassers, members of the divisional election committees and observers during the elections.

So in so many ways our Foundation mobilises the elderly to solve not only economic, but also social and political problems, guaranteeing their participation in development.

On the Day of elderly people, the 1st of October, the members of Belovodskoe Self Help Groups took part at the exhibition (organised on the occasion of celebration of the Day of Older people) which took place in the centre of Bishkek. The members were able to sell their products and socialise with elderly from other groups.

The Self Help Groups of BA have attended training sessions on public budget hearings. We organised a training session both for Batken and Belovodskoe, called “Four stages of the budget process” so that our beneficiaries would gain knowledge on how the republican budget is formed and later use their knowledge to advocate for and then guarantee allocation of some funds from the local budget for purposes of the elderly. We also organised an advanced training on advocacy, called “Building of advocacy strategies”, enabling the elderly to plan and implement successful business strategies.

Activity of the Elderly Initiatives Support Centre

BA Foundation opened an ‘*Elderly Initiatives Support Centre*’ in a building which belongs to the local authorities. The purpose of the centre is to help prevent social isolation and the feeling of loneliness, and to reduce the social interaction difficulties which older persons tend to encounter. It also aims to encourage the elderly to participate in social life. The building was renovated and equipped with the funds, provided by ICCO. The Centre is run by 5 SHGs from Belovodskoe village.

Elderly people are able to make different kind of social activities in the Centre like meetings with each other, discussing different questions once a week, participating/rehearsing in a choir of elderly people, use the building as a training venue.

Goal 3: Protection and promotion of rights of the older people

Babushka Adoption participates in organising national events for and with older people along with other organisations in order to draw attention of the decision makers and publicity to the older peoples’ issues.

Babushka Adoption is a member of Age Net Central Asia without Borders. Together with partner organisations BA organized an annual charity activity “From Heart to Heart” on May 20th, as well as activities for Elderly People’s Day on 1st of October. In the frame of membership of AgeNet Babushka Adoption took part in all events, round tables, conferences, organized by the Age Net to protect rights and interests of older people.

The Self Help Group activities look to solve both social and economic issues of its members and seek to move people out of poverty.

Members of our Self Help Groups and our beneficiaries were involved in processes of decision making, planning and monitoring of the politics at a community level. The Self Help Group members participated in local budget hearings, discussed the future development of the Kyrgyz state and made decisions on planning and improving the situation of older people in rural areas.

Celebration of the “Victory Day”

On the 11th of May BA staff members organized a celebration of the 66th anniversary of the Great Victory in the Second World War. The event took place at our Elderly Initiatives Support Centre in Belovodskoe village in the Chui region, 40 km from the capital city of Bishkek. Three war veterans, members of Babushka Adoption’s Self Help Groups and a local choir “Pamyat” (translated from Russian as “Memory”) took part in the celebration. The war veterans reflected on their experiences of war and about the first Victory Day.



Celebration of the 9th of May, Victory Day

Members of our SHGs read monologues about war. The choir “Pamyat” sang war songs. BA staff congratulated everybody and thanked veterans for their contribution to victory, presenting memorable cards and flowers. After the formal celebration all the guests were invited for tea.



Fair, where the babushkas are selling handmade stuffs

Celebration of the National Action “From Heart to Heart”

On the 20th of May BA the Kyrgyz National Action “From Heart to Heart” took part. BA organized and held a fun lottery and a chess tournament. Babushka Adoption’s Self Help Groups from Belovodskoe took part in the fair and successfully sold many of their own handmade items, including flowers, honey and souvenirs.

Celebration of the International Day of Older People

To celebrate International Day of Older People on the 1st of October, Babushka Adoption organized a concert for its beneficiaries and other elderly. The most talented opera and pop singers from Kyrgyzstan participated in the concert voluntarily. Our beneficiaries had an opportunity to listen to both Soviet retro and modern music. The event was very special for our beneficiaries because they cannot themselves afford to attend such cultural events.



Babushkas at a concert organized for babushkas on the 1st of October



Round Table by Babushka Adoption
“Improvement of the image of the elderly”

Over the last two years Babushka Adoption has consciously taken a more active position in protecting the rights of older people. We include our older people in decision making processes.

And by implementing joint advocacy activities on the local and national levels we are trying to have a greater impact on improving the living conditions of our seniors. This year we were able to begin implementing a project called “Voice of the Elderly”, financed by the United States Democracy

Commission. Within the project framework our older people deepened their knowledge of advocacy and developing advocacy strategies. Also we developed a brochure, telling about the basic needs and rights of the older people. Our older people even started to identify and realize strategies of how they can encourage the protection of the natural environment within their own communities. We continue to work in consultation with representatives of the Social Protection Ministry.

On the 24th of October, 2011 Babushka Adoption held a Round Table Meeting with participants from state authorities, as well as the publicity and business sector, to look at how to improve the image of the elderly in Kyrgyzstan.

The local authorities from Batken region and Belovodskoe village in Chui region keep close contact with our Foundation, supporting us in all possible way. They report to the communities about joint activities between Babushka Adoption and the local authorizes. It can be considered as one more important point of BA’s advocacy activities.

Goal 4: Strengthening of institutional capacity of Babushka Adoption

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As always, Babushka Adoption continues working at enhancing its organisational capacity. This year we have finalized our *Strategic Plan*, and reviewed our operational Manual. These documents are very helpful in moving the organisation forward. Soon these documents will be available on our web – site.

This year Babushka Adoption changed its logo and updated its website, which can be found at: www.babushkaadoption.org

2011 has seen Babushka Adoption appear at pay terminals (automatic cash terminals) at a number of stores in Bishkek, where people can make on-line donations for older people. Users of the Kyrgyz Internet Forum Diesel collected funds for the support of 7 elderly people.

BA constantly works on strengthening of its organisational capacity. In July 2010 BA staff members met for strategic planning where the old strategic plan was updated, the work of the staff was reviewed. In additional BA changed the mission and strategic goals

Babushka Adoption staff attended language courses, training on “Motivation of personnel”, “Project management”.

*In 2010 BA had organisation audit of the Foundation, held by Association of Civil Support Centres. We did the self-diagnostics with participation of all BA Bishkek staff members. As a result we were awarded a Certificate that BA was recommended as a partner Foundation and organisation to implement projects.

In additional BA was recommended to work on developing on a number of Strategic, Financial Management and External Relations issues.

Partner Organisations

Babushka Adoption Foundation has sister organisations in Europe that assist in attracting sponsors and facilitating fundraising activities for BA in Europe. **Babushka Adoption Association** Switzerland was founded in 2002 and **Babushka Adoption Verein Deutschland** in 2008. Both these partnerships enable BA to operate local bank accounts for the convenience of Swiss/German sponsors, to consult the sponsors on sponsorship questions and to raise funds for babushkas and Babushka Adoption Foundation.

Babushka Adoption Foundation began a partnership with **Elnura Foundation** (www.elnura.nl) in the Netherlands in 2004. Elnura Foundation helps to attract new BA sponsors from the Netherlands and draw attention to the plight of the elderly in Kyrgyzstan.

In order to develop closer partnerships with other social protection organisations in Central Asia and to combine regional efforts to improve the living conditions of many vulnerable elderly people in Kyrgyzstan, BA joined **AgeNet - Central Asia without Borders** in 2005. This regional network consists of 44 social protection organisations from CIS countries, such as **Resource Centre for Older People, Help Age International, Public Association of Social Protection of the Population, Adventist Development and Relief Agency Kyrgyzstan**. One of the main aims of Age Net is to promote the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and improve the social situation of the elderly not just in the Kyrgyz Republic, but in CIS. The organisation works also with local and national governments and international organisations to ensure that ageing issues and the rights of elderly people are adequately considered in development policies.

Media

There were several reports this year about Babushka Adoption Foundation and its beneficiaries and projects in local and international media. Media coverage helps raise awareness of BA and foster trust in its legitimacy for overseas supporters who are unable to observe the work of BA for themselves.

We were on TV news of the Kazakhstani TV Channel.

<http://ktk.kz/ru/news/video/2011/07/26/13422/>

Cameramen from the Kyrgyz 5th Channel, together with our PR specialist, travelled to the Batken region to make a film about Babushka Adoption, which would be available on our Web site later.

An article about Babushka Adoption Foundation appeared in the local newspaper “Vechernij Bishkek” on the 10th of August, 2011.

Fundraising

This year we were provided the funds of 1000 USD and 136 500 Soms by the International Women’s Club, 2054 USD Centreria Gold, OSCE Academy, collected by friends of Babushka Adoption.

THE SUPERVISORY BOARD

The Supervisory Board is the managing and supervising body of Babushka Adoption Foundation which was established in order to carry out internal supervision of BA activities. The Supervisory Board, comprised of members from the international development community and Kyrgyz citizens, continued to oversee Babushka Adoption Foundation’s activities and bolster the credibility of the organisation.

In addition to Board meetings the Chair and a Board Member had management meetings with Babushka Adoption Foundation Director, Mrs. Aidai Kadyrova, to exchange information and provide advice and consultations.

The Board Members as usually met once a quarter to approve the yearly budget of BA for 2011, to approve some of the internal documents and policies and to provide advice and consultations on BA’s current activities.

One of the Board Members, Mrs. Jana Schumann left the Board due to leaving Kyrgyzstan.

Members:

Mr Jonathon Hornbrook (Chair)

Mrs Jana Schuhmann-resigned due to leaving

Mr Markus Müller

Mrs Dfamilya Tchukurova

Mrs. Elena Yung

Mrs. Nurjamal Bokoeva

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

Babushka Adoption Foundation makes information about its financial activity available to our donors and sponsors, and for those who are interested in BA activities.

	Budget 2011 (EURO) PLANNED	Budget 2011 (EUROS) ACTUAL
Income:		
Sources of Funds:		
1. Adoption Sponsors Donations		
Babushka Sponsorship	131447	130735
Total adoption donations	131 447	130 735
2. Lump Sum Donations		
International Women's Club	3 000	3 040
Additional sponsors contribution (30 euro request)	28 000	28 000
Fundraising by friends of BA	2 000	3 980
Other contribution / fundraising	3 800	0
ICCO Donation	0	0
OSCE	3 000	2 000
Democracy Commission/Public Affairs Section US Em.	8 280	15 285
Total lump sum donations	48 080	52 305
TOTAL '1' + '2'	179 527	183 040
Outgoings:		
3. Payments to Babushkas		
	125 000	117 675
4. Operating costs (Staff related)		
Salaries and Social fund (Bishkek, Batken)	50 000	44 545
<i>Bonus for achieving new Adoption donations</i>	0	0
Transportation Costs (fuel, maint. Bishkek)	1 500	894
Fuel, maintenance (Batken)	1 000	1 060
Training costs (studying of 2 offices)	2 640	768
<i>Support to Self Help Groups, training sessions for SHGs (Belov, Batken)</i>	8 500	10 893
Sub-total	63 640	58 160
Total '3' + '4'	188 640	175 835
5. Fund-Raising Activities		
Promotion & Publicity (letters, placards, photo services)	3 500	890
Consultants, projects	1000	616
Sub-total	4 500	1 506
6. Administrative Expenses:		
Office Rent (Batken offices)	800	0
Office repair & maintenance (2 offices' repair)	1000	1 012
Public utilities (elect., heating, water)	600	232
Office consumables (stationary, representation costs)	1 400	1 802
Communication (Phone/Fax, Internet/email)	2 200	1 985
Travel cost & outstations	1 000	222

Bank Charges	600	1 121
Office equipment maintenance/repair	830	161
Contingency	1 600	979
Auditors services remuneration	750	790
Insurance	300	0
Transport expenses	100	157
Sub-total	11 180	8 461
Total Income '1' + '2'	179 527	183 040
Total Outgoings '3' + '4' + '5' + '6'	204 320	185 802